GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3514
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
CHILD TRAFFICKING
MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any policy for setting up of a nodal agency on the lines on narcotics Bureau for monitoring child trafficking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India is contemplating to make suitable amendment in the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act to punish trafficker, pimps and customs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) The National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children formulated by the Government in 1998, envisages setting up a nodal agency under Section 13(4) of the Imoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956. The Department has felt that an agency having all India jurisdiction would be in a position to over come inter-state jurisdiction delays that presently hinder effective enforcement of the ITPA. The matter for setting up nodal agency has been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed certain amendments in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to make it more effective and stringent for traffickers and putting greater criminal culpability on them. The main amendments proposed in the ITPA include the deletion of Section 8 and 20 of the Act which place the onus on victims for soliciting rather than on the traffickers so that the cases are booked under Sections 3,4,5 and 6 of the Act in order to have high rate of conviction on traffickers.